

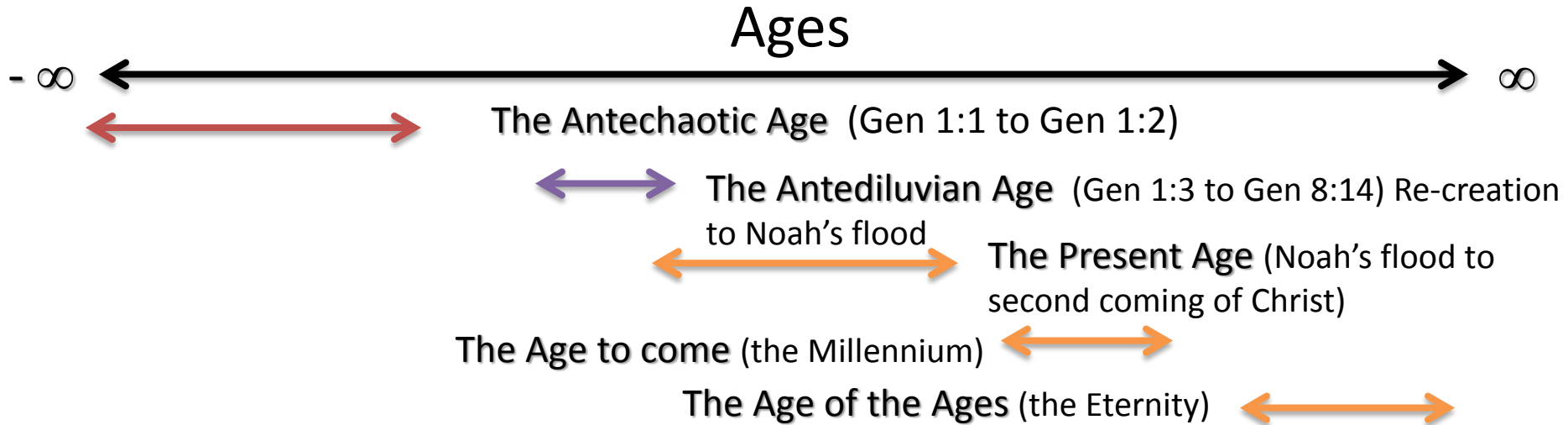
# Biblical Dispensation

*Dispensation of Law*

# Outline of our study

1. The definition of the name of the dispensation
2. The length of the dispensation
3. The favorable beginning of man in each age
4. The test for man in each period
5. The purpose of God in each test for man
6. The means of God in accomplishing His purpose
7. The failure of man to meet the test
8. The judgment of God upon man because of his failure
9. God's provision of redemption for man at the end of each age

# Expressions of the Ages



Eternal Past
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dispensation of Angels</li> <li>• Col 1:15-18 (invisible things)</li> <li>• 1 Cor 15:40 (celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies)</li> </ul>

Dispensation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Innocence</li> <li>• Conscience</li> <li>• Human Government</li> <li>• Promise</li> <li>• Law</li> <li>• Grace</li> <li>• Kingdom</li> </ul>

Eternal Future

# 1. Definition

Called so because of the law given to Moses.

## 2. Length of the dispensation of Law

Lasted from Moses to Christ

It was more than 1718 years long.

1. Exodus from Egypt to entry into Canaan - 41 years (stayed in Sinai for 1 year, Num 10:11-12 and wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, Num 14:33-34. (41)
2. From entrance into Canaan to reign of Saul was 520 years (561) - Joshua-->Samson(14th judge)-->Eli, the fifteenth judge, Samuel, the sixteenth judge, Gen 7:15 and Saul, 1Sam 4:1, 15-18.
3. From Saul to Babylonian captivity was 513 years. (1074)
4. From Babylonian captivity to the restoration was 164 years (1238)
5. From the restoration to Christ's crucifixion was 483 years (1721)

### 3. The favorable beginning of man in Law

- Israelites had seen the mighty power of God doing signs and wonders in Egypt
- God spoke the law to them in audible voice, Deut 5:22-24
- He was visible with them in the pillar of fire by night and a cloud by day, Exodus 14:19-31
- He supernaturally provided bread and kept their cloth wearing out for forty days, Deut 29:5, Exodus 16:35
- He gave them quails and water and provided for them, Exodus 16:12, 17:6
- He took sickness from them and there was no feeble person, Ex 15:26, 23:25, Psalm 105:37, 107:20

### 3. The favorable beginning of man in Law

- He gave them riches of Egypt, Psalm 105:37, Ex 12:36
- He gave them victory over their enemies, Ex 24:9-11, Josh 5:13-15
- He led them into the land flowing milk and honey, Num 13:27, Ex 23:20-33
- He gave them complete code of law and made new eternal covenant with them
- What more could they have asked that would have made a more favorable beginning?

## 4. The test for man in Law

Obey the law of Moses in every detail

1. The commandments (Ex 20:1-17, Deut 5:1-21) These express sum of God's holy will in every phase of life
2. The judgments (Ex 21:1-23:33) More detailed regulations of the social laws that are summed up in the Ten Commandments (among people on earth & for social life)
3. The ordinances (Ex 24:12-31:18) More detailed regulations of the religious laws of the Ten Commandments (among people of God & for religious life)



## 5. The purpose of God in the dispensation of Law

1. God's purpose was that the law of Moses should govern Israel until the Messiah should come.
2. It brought to men the knowledge of sin
3. The law brought bondage, but it was a shadow of good things to come

# What was wrong with the Law?

- It had a sinful mediator, Gal 3:7-10
- It could not give eternal inheritance, Rom 4:13-25, Gal 3:18
- It was dedicated by the blood of animals, Ex. 24:6-8, Hebrews 9:16-22
- It brought condemnation, not life, Romans 3:19-20, 4:15)
- It could not justify a man, Acts 13:39, Gal 2:16-21
- It brought all men under the curse and executed them, Gal 3:10-14
- It was not of faith or grace, Gal 3:11, John 1:17

# What was wrong with the Law?

- It was a law of works and bondages, Rom 3:26-31, Gal 3:10-12
- It gave knowledge of sin, but could not save from sin, Rom 3:19-20, 4:15, 8:3-4
- It brought wrath instead of blessing, Rom 4:15
- It could never make anyone perfect, Heb 7:11-12, 18-19
- It had a sinful priest while the new covenant does not, Heb 7:26-28, 9:7
- It was faulty, Heb 8:7, the new covenant is not, James 1:25
- It had animal sacrifice, Heb 10:3-4

## 6. The means of God in accomplishing His purpose

The means God used to further His plan in this age were

- the completion of the organization of Israel and the establishment of them as a nation
- the destruction of the giants in the Earth
- the complete victory of Israel over all their enemies
- the manifestation of God's glory and power
- and the blessing of Israel as a people so as to prove to the heathen that God is true living God.

## 7. Failure in the wilderness for forty-one years

1. Murmured for water at Marah, Ex 15:22-26
2. Murmured for bread and meat, Ex 16:1-22
3. Murmured for water at Rephidim, Ex 17:1-7
4. Murmured for flesh the second time, Num 11
5. Murmured because of the giants, Num 13:31-14:5
6. Murmured for water the third time, Num 20:1-12
7. Murmured because of the death of the princes, Num 16:41
8. Murmured because of the hardship in travel, Num 21:1-9

# 7. Failure in the wilderness for forty-one years

9. Leaned on the arm of flesh, Ex 18:1-27

10. Sinned in worshiping the golden calf, Ex 32

11. Miriam and Aaron's sin of self-exaltation, Num 12

12. Refused to enter Canaan through unbelief, Num 14

13. Gainsaying (speaking against) of Korah, Num 16, Jude 11

14. Sin of adultery, Num 25

15. Sin of Moses, Num 20:1-12, 27:14

## 7. Failure under Joshua for thirty years

1. The sin of Achan, Josh 7
2. League with the Gibeonites, Josh 9
3. Sin is not destroying the inhabitants of Canaan, Judges 1-2

## 7. The failure of Kings , Judges, in the captivity & in the restoration

Failure under the judges, kings, failure under captivity (*Ezekiel 2:3 to 3:9*) and restoration (*Intermarriage – Ezra 10, Robbing the Levites of the Tithes – Neh. 13:10-14, Mal 3:12, Breaking the Sabbath – Neh. 13:15-21, Unlawful marriages – Neh. 13:23-30, Neglect of the house of God – Hag 1:1-15, Corrupt priesthood – Mal 1:6-14, 2:7-17*) eventually resulted in crucifying their own Messiah.



## 8. The judgment of God upon man because of his failure

1. Judgment upon the world in the cross of Christ – John 12:27-33, 19:16-30, Acts 2:36, Phil 2:5-11, Col 2:14-17.
2. The judgment came upon Jewish nation for their long rebellion against God and crucifying their own Messiah. The nation was officially cut off just before the crucifixion (Matt 21:33-45, 23:37-24:2). This was not actually carried out until 70 AD, when Jerusalem was destroyed with about 1, 000, 000 killed and 97, 000 taken as captive and the whole race was scattered among the nations (Luke 21:20-24).

## 9. God's provision of redemption

1. At the cross God provided the true source of redemption (1 Cor 1:18-25, Col 1:12-20).
2. Up to this time men sacrificed animals.
3. God sent His own son, innocent, sinless to take the place of the guilty, thus satisfying the righteous demands of God and paying the penalty for sin, so that sinners might go free if he accepts Christ as his substitute.(Gal 3:13, Eph 2:11-18, Col 1:20-23)